

Comment Form

STATE DEPARTMENT

Title: Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption; Interountry Adoption Act of 2000; Accreditation of Agencies; Approval of Persons; Preservation of Convention Records; Extension of Comment Period
 Subject Category: Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000: Hague Convention-- Agency accreditation and person approval

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Comments Due: December 15, 2003

Phase: PROPOSED RULES

How To Comment:

Commenters may send hard copy submissions or comments in electronic format. Commenters sending only hard copies must send an original and two copies referencing docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA-29, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Hard copy comments may also be sent by overnight courier services to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Do not personally hand deliver comments to the Department of State. Comments referencing the docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 may be submitted electronically to adoptionregs@state.gov. Two hard copies of the comments submitted electronically must be mailed under separate cover as well. Electronic comments must be made in the text of the message or submitted as a Word file avoiding the use of any form of encryption or use of special characters. If you submit comments by hard copy rather than electronically, include a disk with the submission if possible. Hard copy submissions without an accompanying disk file, however, will be accepted.

Your comment has been sent. To verify that this agency has received your comment, please contact the agency directly. If you wish to retain a copy of your comment, print out a copy of this document for your files.

Please note your REGULATIONS.GOV number.

Regulations.gov #: EREG - 10

Date Submitted: Dec 15, 2003

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Comment

U.S. Department of State: I have become aware of some rather serious situations about the International Adoption process. I have a friend who has been involved in the International Adoption process for 13 months now. She is currently attempting to adopt a little girl from Tajikistan. She began the process with Guatemala as her chosen country. But, then there were problems with the Hague Convention between Guatemala and the United States, not to mention the unstable economic conditions and rioting. She has decided to keep pursuing the adoption process. So, in the waiting process, a little girl from Tajikistan has become available. Her name is Manizha. The Republic of Tajikistan has become very unstable and there are many issues with that country right now. The adoption process is on hold due to some comments by the countrymen of Tajikistan that would rather the children die than be adopted by any American family. Yet, the United States government is providing over \$20 million in aid to the Republic of Tajikistan (including food aid), and I, as a taxpayer and law-abiding citizen, am outraged by our government's support of such a lawless state as the Republic of Tajikistan. The Hague Convention just helps convolute the issue. By passing and adhering to the current regulations set forth, even more countries, like Tajikistan, end up winning by complicating the process for all American families who wish to adopt internationally. The children are the ones that end up losing and they pay the highest price - their life! I personally do not support the Hague Convention in its entirety. The concept is great, however, there appear to be many flaws in that document, specifically parts 96 and 98. Many American citizens will not be able to adopt internationally for financial reasons now. The Hague Convention proposals would increase the already expensive process for the Adoption agencies and the agencies would, therefore, pass those expenses along to the prospective parents. She has made many financial sacrifices in order to begin the process of international adoption. If this is passed, she could potentially lose the money she has invested in a child and have to raise more money (i.e. take out another loan) to accommodate the Hague Convention. So, I am asking you as my representation to make my voice heard among Congress and the Department of State. Please do not support this until more reasonable guidelines can be created! Thank you for any assistance that you may provide and for making our voices heard. Sincerely,
Eric L. Agnew